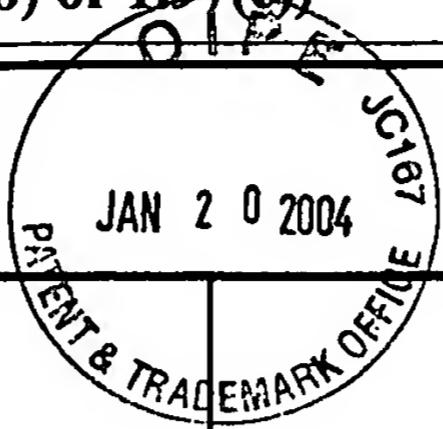


**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
14303

In Re Application Of: **ERNST ET AL.**



Serial No.  
**10/687,451**

Filing Date  
**10/16/2003**

Examiner  
**UNKNOWN**

Group Art Unit  
**UNKNOWN**

**Title: ROD HANGER FOR SECURING A ROD TO A SUBSTRATE**

Address to:  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**37 CFR 1.97(b)**

1.  The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.

**37 CFR 1.97(c)**

2.  The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:
  - the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);

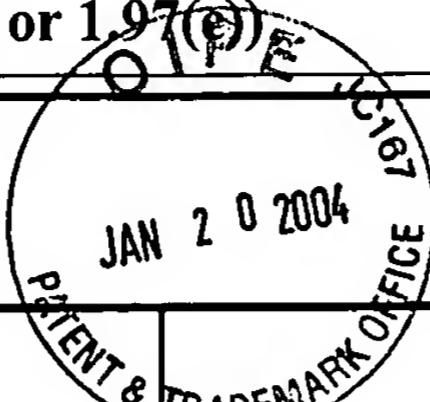
**OR**

- the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(e))

Docket No.  
14303

In Re Application: ERNST ET AL.



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10/687,451

Filing Date  
10/16/2003

Examiner  
UNKNOWN

Group Art Unit  
UNKNOWN

ROD HANGER FOR SECURING A ROD TO A SUBSTRATE

Payment of Fee

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.  
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ as described below.

Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit any overpayment.  
 Charge any additional fee required.

Certificate of Transmission by Facsimile\*

I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (F:

(Date)

Signature

Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail

I certify that this document and fee is being deposited on 01/14/2004 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*Judy Stein*  
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

JUDY STEIN

Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate

\*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.

*Lisa M. Soltis*  
Signature

Dated: January 14, 2004

LISA M. SOLTIS  
ATTORNEY OF RECORD  
REGISTRATION NO. 40,623

CC:



Atty. Docket No. 14303

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: ERNST ET AL. )  
Appl. No. : 10/687,451 )  
Filed: 10/16/2003 )

For: ROD HANGER FOR SECURING A ROD TO A SUBSTRATE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty to disclose under 37 CFR 1.56, Applicant submits herewith information for consideration by the Examiner.

The submission of this information is only for the purpose of providing a complete record and is not intended to be construed as an admission that the information antedates the claimed invention, or as an admission that the information is material to patentability or relevant or analogous to the field of the invention.

The right to establish an invention date earlier than the filing date of the claimed invention, and the right to establish that the information is not material to patentability or relevant or analogous to the field of the invention is hereby reserved.

This submission shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that there exists no other information as defined under 37 CFR 1.56(a).

It is requested that the Examiner give full consideration to the information identified on the attached Form PTO-1449, and make it of record in this application.

**Atty. Docket No. 14303**

For: ROD HANGER FOR SECURING A ROD TO A SUBSTRATE

This Statement is filed on or before the mailing of a first Official action on the merits. No fee is due.

Kindly complete and return a copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Soltis  
Lisa M. Soltis  
Attorney of Record  
Reg. No. 40,623

,2003

Telephone: 847.657.7980

Patent Department  
Illinois Tool Works Inc.  
3600 West Lake Avenue  
Glenview, Illinois 60025

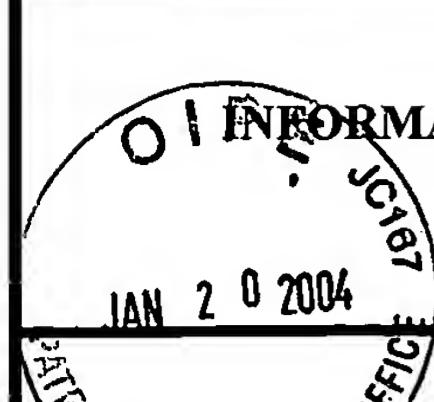
**“Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8”**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with First Class addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 14, 2004

Judy Stein

Judy Stein



O INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Docket Number (Optional) <b>14303</b>	Application Number <b>10/687,451</b>			
			Applicant(s) <b>ERNST ET AL.</b>				
			Filing Date <b>10/16/2003</b>	Group Art Unit <b>UNKNOWN</b>			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	2003/0133768	07/17/2003	LOSADA			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED				
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							